RECD
DEPT. OF STATE
DIV. COM. & REC.

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, February 5, 1932.

No.358

Subject: TURKO-BULGAR NEGOTIATIONS.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
FEB 26 32
APR 1932
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 27 1932
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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767.7411

TREATY DIVISION
MAR 28 1932
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

APR 2 1932

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department, with reference to the Legation's despatch No.331, of December 11, 1931, that the Bulgarian and Turkish Governments are now engaged in negotiations looking to the application of the protocol of the Bulgaro-Turkish Treaty of Friendship of 1925. The negotiations are being conducted at Sofia by Mr. Pantcho Doreff, (a Bulgarian member of the Turkish Parliament in pre-Balkan war days), for Bulgaria, and Tewfik Kiamil Bey, the Turkish Minister to Bulgaria, who, with Mr. Simeon Radeff, the Bulgarian Minister to Washington, negotiated the treaty of 1925.

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The protocol relates to the liquidation of the property

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property questions between Bulgaria and Turkey resulting from the departure from European Turkey (excepting Constantinople) of Bulgarian property owners there and a similar movement of Turks from territory detached from the Ottoman Empire at the close of the Balkan wars. The protocol divides the emigrants into two categories, i.e., those who emigrated before and those who emigrated after October 5, 1912, the date of the declaration of war between Bulgaria and Turkey. Those who emigrated before October 5, 1912, retain their rights to property left behind, whereas those who left subsequent to October 5, 1912, forfeited all property rights.

According to the Bulgarian point of view it is clear that the protocol refers to liquidation of property in Thrace. The Turkish Government, however, took the position that liquidation should encompass all property owned in Turkey by Bulgarians from Thrace and all property claimed in Bulgaria by Turks as far back as the liberation of Bulgaria. By this interpretation Turkey would be able to claim compensation for property owned by Turkish subjects who have emigrated elsewhere than to Turkey, and who possess property in territories acquired by Bulgaria after 1912.

This divergence of views resulted in the delay of the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of Friendship, until January 1928. Even after the exchange of ratifications the protocol remained a dead letter, although desultory efforts were made in that year, and again in 1930, to come to some arrangement. A Turkish proposal in 1930 accepted certain elements of the Bulgarian interpretation

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and recommended that the differences be composed by recourse to the procedure prescribed by the Treaty of Conciliation and Arbitration which had been signed in the mean time. Bulgaria replied that as the Treaty of Conciliation and Arbitration had been concluded subsequent to the dispute, it did not apply, and suggested that the problem be referred to special delegates appointed by the two Governments. This was the state of things when Mr. Mooshanoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, went to Angora at the beginning of December 1931. During his visit to the Turkish capital, the Turkish Government agreed to the procedure proposed by the Bulgarian Government, and in consequence Mr. Doreff and the Turkish Minister at Sofia are now seeking to reach a settlement.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker,
Henry W. Shoemaker.

710

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NOTE

SEE 867.9111/346 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED Jan.27,1932

TO NAME 1—1127 ors

REGARDING: Turkish-Bulgarian Treaty of Amity of 1925. Bulgaria has chosen the members of the delegation to negotiate with Turkish delegation, an agreement regarding real property which is provided for in the --.

767.74 111/ 15

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NOTE

767.7411/16

SEE 867.9111/349 FOR report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED Feb. 26, 1932

TO NAME 1—1127 ...

REGARDING: Negotiations opened to the end of settling the difficulties engendered by difference of interpretation of the property protocol annexed to the Turko-Bulgarian treaty of amity of October 18, 1926.

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earliest possible moment.

Bulgaria.

Sofia reports the opening, in conformity with the agreement reached when the Bulgarian Prime Minister was recently at Ankara, of negotiations to the end of settling the difficulties engendered by difference of interpretation of the property protocol annexed to the Turko-Bulgarian treaty of amity of October 18, 1926. The press is hopeful of a "suitable and equitable" interpretation.

Property Negotiations Opened

767.74

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NOTE

767.74111/17

SEE 768.74/311 FOR #672

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED May 30, 1933
TO NAME

1—1127

REGARDING: Possibility of the signature of a political pact between Turkey and Greece to insure peace in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Wi

LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Sofia, Bulgaria, June 23, 1933.

No. 691.

Subject: BULGARIA DECLINES TURKISH PROPOSAL OF NON-AGGRESSION TREATY.

TREATY DIVISION
JUL 17 1933
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPT. OF STATE 1933 JUL 17 PM 4 DIV. OF COMM. & REC'D
DEPARTMENT OF STATE JUL 17 1933 A-O/O
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The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

JUL 18 1933

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 1933
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

Sir:

I have the honor to inform the Department, with reference to the Legation's despatches No. 672 of May 20, 1933, and No. 680 of June 10, 1933, that a member of my staff has been told in confidence by Mr. Collas, the Greek Minister here, that the Bulgarian Government has declined, at least for the time being, the proffered non-aggression treaty with Turkey. It is understood that Mr. Collas has been so informed by Tewfik Kiamil, the Turkish Minister to Bulgaria, who is reported by Mr. Collas to have added that Bulgaria's negative reply was explained on the ground that the conclusion of such a

treaty

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treaty might be misunderstood by one or more of its neighbors, meaning, no doubt, Yugoslavia, and possibly Rumania. The British Minister here is also of the opinion that Bulgaria has declined the Turkish proposal. He thinks, however, that the refusal was presented in such a way as to assure the continuance of Turkish good will and to avoid the creation of any stumbling block to a return to the proposal at a latter date should Bulgaria so desire.

Respectfully yours,

Henry W. Shoemaker

Henry W. Shoemaker.

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L.E.C.

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MBB:FM

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NOTE

767.74111/19

SEE 767.74/40 FOR #753

FROM Bulgaria (Shoemaker) DATED Sept.29, 1933

TO NAME

1—1127 ••

REGARDING:

Refusal of Bulgaria to sign an agreement of mutual guarantee with Turkey.

/9

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 874.032/55 FOR Desp.#772

FROM Bulgaria (Barnes) DATED Nov.3,1933

TO

NAME

1—1127

767.7411/20

20

REGARDING: Reference in King's speech before Parliament on Nov.28th, to Ismet Pasha's visit should not be passed without comment in view of fact that treaty of friendship between Bulgaria and Turkey was signed in 1925, whereas treaty extended during visit was treaty of neutrality, conciliation, judicial settlement and arbitration of 1929.

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NOTE

767.7411/21

SEE 867.9111/417 FOR Report #-

FROM Istanbul (Allen) DATED May 29, 1934

TO

NAME

1—1127 GPO

REGARDING: Ratification by the Turkish Assembly of a Turko-Bulgarian treaty of neutrality.

Wi

On May 12 the Grand National Assembly ratified a Turko-Bulgarian treaty of neutrality. This is presumably the protocol signed at Varna on September 24, 1933 by the Turkish and Bulgarian prime ministers.

Treaty Ratified

767.74/11

Central File: Decimal File 767.7411, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Bulgaria, War. Peace. Friendship. Alliance. Non-Aggression., Jan. 27, 1932 - May 29, 1934. January 27, 1932 - May 29, 1934. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State,

1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111394229%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.